MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 JANUARY 1984

Egypt

Egypt has accepted the ICO call to resume its membership, President Husni Mubarak announced in remarks reported by MENA after meeting with a visiting ICO delegation headed by Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure. While Egypt is committed to the ICO "framework" and charter, and is performing its duty toward Islamic issues and honoring its commitments, he said, "there is absolutely nothing in this that harms its sovereignty." Former Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, in an interview with IDF Radio, said Mubarak's remarks mean that Egypt is rejoining unconditionally and without contradicting its treaty obligations to Israel.

PLO

Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, denied reports of "deep disagreements" between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other members of the Fatah Central Committee over the results of the ICO summit in Casablanca and 'Arafat's recent African tour, KUNA reported. According to reports obtained by KUNA, some Fatah Central Committee members had accused 'Arafat of returning to "unilaterally making decisions" by not informing his colleagues in advance of his intention to undertake the tour.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat arrived in Rabat on 30 January, SPA announced. He is to discuss the resumption of Egypt's ICO membership with King Hassan and Sekou Toure, KUNA added.

In a separate development, the Libyan People's Bureau in Madrid has received "definite and reliable" information that "elements belonging to the 'Arafat group" are going to assassinate the secretary of the Bureau and secretary of the JANA office in Madrid, according to Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio.

Lebanon

Casualties — A U.S. Marine died of wounds received in fighting around Beirut airport on 30 January, Beirut radio reported. The clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio accused the Marines of "indiscriminate" shelling of the southern suburbs in which 1 person was killed and at least 15 others were wounded, including a number of children.

Earlier, the clandestine Voice of Truth radio claimed that Phalangist military commander Fadi Afram was "seriously wounded" in an assassination attempt staged during a meeting of displaced Christians from Dayr al-Qamar.

Lebanese-Syrian Summit — President Amin al-Jumayyil will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad "very soon" to discuss the Lebanese crisis, Jidda radio reported citing WAKH.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interview — Libya has tried to convince GUNT President Goukouni Oueddei not to attack the French forces in Chad, but "at present we cannot control him" and "neither can we convince him not to attack the French forces," Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stated in an interview with Paris radio. While admitting that Libyan advisers are training Goukouni's forces, Al-Qadhdhafi said Libyan troops will not fight French forces unless Libya acquiesces in Goukouni's request to send in troops to "balance" French support for Chadian President Hissein Habre's forces. He denied that a Libyan SAM-7 was responsible for the recent downing of a French Jaguar in Chad and called for a peaceful solution involving "all parties, whether Libyan, French, or Chadian."On Arab affairs, Al-Qadhdhafi asserted that Egypt's return to the ICO depends on its renunciation of the Camp David accords. He also said that Yasir 'Arafat is free to come to Libya as a Palestinian citizen, "but we will receive him only in this capacity."

Coup Attempt — Some 27 officers and soldiers were executed after participating in an abortive coup attempt against Al-Qadhdhafi's regime on 29 December 1983, INA reported citing the Paris magazine *AT-TALI'AH AL-'ARABIYAH*.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in a speech reported by Jerusalem radio, said the main obstacle to an agreement with Lebanon is the Syrian Government, which pursues an "intransigent and aggressive policy" toward Lebanon and Israel. A "strong posture" must be adopted in the face of Syria's "obstruction," the prime minister stated.

Jordan

Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat outlined the government's priorities in a policy statement delivered on 30 January and broadcast by Amman radio. Jordan does not regard the Palestine question as a "political card" or a "mere humanitarian issue" with which it sympathizes, the prime minister stated, but views it as "its primary fateful issue" on which it builds its existence, stability, and security.

Concerning Arab relations, the prime minister stressed his government's commitment to work for the "consolidation of Arab solidarity" and to call on "fraternal Arab countries" to adhere to dialogue, cooperation, and coordination. Every Arab country should work within the framework of the Arab League, 'Ubaydat added, and harmful "contradictory axes" and "fragmentation" among Arab nations should be removed. The Jordanian Government "welcomes the opening of doors for Egypt's return," the prime minister said, foiling the "enemy's" scheme to isolate Egypt from "its nation."

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Karmal Addresses Cotton Growers Meeting

LD301444 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this afternoon took part in the first meeting of the country's cotton growers in the Storay Palace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He said in a fervent revolutionary speech to the cotton growers:

Land belongs to those who toil and work on it! This is the main slogan and final aspiration of our party,that is, the party of your children, the party at your service, the PDPA, and it s the aspiration of the DRA state and Government,that is, your state. This is our slogan and it will remain so.

Present at this large meeting were: Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; and the ministers of mines and industry, agriculture and land reform, and irrigation.

Pointing out the two main staples — food and clothing — which are produced by the country's farmers, Babrak Karmal said: In past years, a minority, oppressive, exploiting class took away a great part of the farmers' produce. Fortunately, with the victory of the April Revolution under the leadership of the PDPA, which succeeded through the will of the broad masses of the country and the liberating force of the Afghan Army, the rotten old monarchic order was uprooted and a new life began in Afghanistan. Finally, with the arival of the new development state of the revolution, ground was prepared for the all-round progress and development of the country.

Babrak Karmal said: Due to the undeclared war which has been unleashed by the servants of regional reactionaries, Pakistan and Iran, and the provocations of U.S. imperialism and Chinese chauvinism against our homeland, we must confess that we have not yet succeeded in accomplishing all the necessary aspirations and aims of the April Revolution and the PDPA program for the people of Afghanistan. There are plenty of problems on this path. However, we firmly believe that, based on the steel-like will of you brothers, fathers, youths, and workers of our country, we can overcome all these problems and difficulties.

Speaking on the phases of cotton growing and its production and the problems of the country's cotton growers, who for many long years suffered under the oppression and exploitation of a handful of ruling minority class, Babrak Karmal said: Several times we raised the voice of the oppressed people of Afghanistan, including the issue of farming and land, in the previous Wolasi Jirga [national assembly]. Our main slogan and determination are being courageously and fearlessly announced by the party and state. And notwithstanding all resistance by persecuters, oppressors, and reaction and imperialism, it will be put into practice completely. In the present phase, our revolutionary party and state is never opposed to private land ownership. We have said that the middle classes who possess up to 30 jeribs [120 square meters] of first-grade land are supported by the party and state.

Babarak Karmal added: We are fighting in the way of justice; we, along with you, struggle against the enemies of justice for the maintenance of justice in the country.

Addressing the country's cotton farmers, Babrak Karmal said: We are speaking with frankness and in a simple language. You have put forward all your problems and complaints at this meeting. I am now at your rank and defend your demands and interests against the state and government. I instruct all responsible officials of the state and party not to spare any assistance or support in eliminating your problems and meeting your demands. Babrak Karmal also asked the toiling peasants of the country to realize more than ever before their duties and obligations before the party, state, and government and to further unite and organize themselves in the new conditions of the country when the enemies of the homeland, revolution, and tranquillity of our working people have disrupted the peace and security of our people and, by forming resistance groups under PDPA leadership, defend their farms and villages.

Babrak Karmal said: Toiling farmers of the homeland, let us with sincere heart and soul, with love for the people and love for the homeland and revolution, build a prosperous Afghanistan. Hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, like brothers, let us all work for the building and progress of our country. Let us toil and, particularly in the area of cotton growing, bring about prosperity for your families and for our future generations.

Concluding his speech, Babrak Karmal added: Cotton grower compatriots, the time for spring cultivation is approaching so you must start to prepare your lands to grow cotton. Take maximum advantage of the material and technical assistance of the state, cultivate your lands in time without fear from the bestial rebels, and achieve a plentiful yield in the coming year. The party, state, and government are at your service and will cooperate with you. I wish you noble success in this regard.

Council of Ministers Discusses Cotton Production

LD302334 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The DRA Council of Ministers today comprehensively assessed the results of the meeting of the country's cotton growers in Kabul 28-29 January. The Council of Ministers stated that the first jirga of cotton growers was successfully held and concluded. Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, delivered an instructive statement to the jirga.

Babrak Karmal's instructions are very important in the growth of the DRA's economy and for increasing cotton production and its by-products. All the country's cotton growers put forward proposals to the jirga regarding the improvement and expansion of cotton growing. The DRA Council of Ministers authorized a commission to prepare within 3 days a draft of measures in this connection in accordance with the instructions of Babrak Karmal

and in consideration of the proposals put forward by the farmers. The Council of Ministers has instructed the assigned commission to consider the following items in drafting these measures:

Expansion of cotton cultivation during 1984-85 and thereafter and increase in the production of this important plant; increase in the value of purchase of seed cotton by the state; speedy revival of the center of cotton purchases by the state and improving matters relevant to that; timely provision to growers of cotton seed and of fertilizer and necessary technical help; organization of the sale of primary consumer goods to the cotton grower in barter form; improving the organization of sale of seeded cotton for oil cake and other products; preventing the illegal sale of fertilizer, fuel, cultivation seed, oil cake, and others; correct solution of the question of payment; loans to the cotton growers; maintenance of fuel material needed by cotton growers; maintenance of sufficient water for lands under cotton cultivation; definition of lands under cultivation of rice and cotton in consideration of the quantity of water and its distribution; solution of other problems, not only in the area of revival, but about the normal growth of the cultivation of cotton in the country.

Voice of Islamic Revolution Reports on Events

Military Dismissals

GF281210 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1700 GMT 27 Jan 84

[Text] (?It has been reported) that some young (?soldiers) andhigh-ranking military officers of the Armed Forces of the imposed regime in Afghanistan were arrested and imprisoned during the past few days.

The Babrak Karmal regime which seized power in Afghanistan in a coup d'etat with the support of the Soviet Union has maintained silence on this subject and the media affiliated with the Karmal regime have not disseminated any reports on this topic. Babrak Karmal faces a wave of severe opposition among the higher echelons of the Armed Forces. Consequently, he dismissed the (?commander) of the Armed Forces and the deputy minister of defense in his regime and appointed new pawns in their place.

Mujahidin Trial

GF301010 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 29 Jan

[Text] Two officers of the Army of the puppet regime of Afghanistan were recently tried by an Islamic Revolutionary court and have been sentenced to death. These two officers of the Karmal regime, who had been trained in the Soviet Union and who had been directly involved in the killing of our Muslim revolutionaries, were captured at the beginning of the month of Jadi [22 December to 20 January] during operations in Qandahar Province by our Muslim mujahidin brothers. The death sentence passed on these mercenaries of the occupationist Soviet forces was carried out last week.

Attempted Discord

GF301611 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 29 Jan 84

[Text] During an interview with the correspondent of the Voice of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan, a leader of the Islamic revolutionaries in Zabol has condemned the radio and press propaganda by the imperialists and reactionaries, who are trying to sow discord among the Muslims of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran. He called this propaganda a plot against the Islamic Revolution.

Referring to news reports by the imperialist media about the ouster of Afghan refugees from Iran, he said: The KGB and Karmal regime intelligence officials are trying to malign the good name of the Afghan peoples who were forced to take refuge in Iran and Pakistan and are using their fifth column to commit criminal acts. After the Iranian Government identified these elements, it expelled a group of them from Iran.

Commenting on the smuggling of narcotics and nonobservance of laws in Iran and Pakistan by certain Afghans residing in these two countries, this leader of the Afghan revolutionaries said that these rumors are being spread by the fifth column of Red forces and the Karmal regime. However, he added: It is possible that certain acts, though legal in our country, may be illegal in those countries. But the fact remains that if we were in the shoes of the Governments of Iran and Pakistan, we would have also acted against the communists who pass themselves off as Afghan refugees and engage in smuggling, theft, and other anti-Islamic activities. We would have also taken prompt action against such people.

He stressed the need for identifying the Soviet and Karmal fifth columnists and called for a jihad against the plots of these hidden elements who want to create rifts among Muslims in Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Ershad Holds Talks With Jana Dal Leaders

BK301217 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Text] In continuation of dialogue with political parties on important national issues, the leaders of Jana Dal [People's Party] headed by its chairman, Mr Justice A.S.M. Ahsanuddin Chaudhry, met the president and the chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, at Banga Bhavan last evening. They demanded restoration of open politics latest by 1 March this year. The party told the president that political violence should be curbed by the government through the law-enforcing agencies as usual.

During the talks, the president was assisted by the establishment minister, Major General Mohabbat Jan Chowdhury; the home minister, Major General Abdul Mannan Siddique; the agriculture minister, Mr A.Z.M. Obaidullah Khan; the education minister, Dr Abdul Majid Khan; special assistant to the president, Mr A.R. Yusuf; and the general staff to the CMLA, Major General N.A. Chisty. The Jana Dal chairman was aided by the vice chairman of the party, Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury; Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury; Shah Moazzam Hussein; Mr Ali Amjad Khan; Mr Abu Nasir Khan Bhashani; Mr Riazuddin Ahmed; Mr Shamsul Haq; Dr Amina Rahmanj; Mr M.A. Haq; Mr M. Anwarullah; the secretary general of the party, Dr M.A. Matin; and the treasurer, Mr M.A. Sattar.

Briefing newsmen after the talks, the special assistant to the president said the Jana Dal leaders maintained that the presidential election should be held first and then the parliamentary polls as per schedule announced [as heard] and these are also required under the suspended Constitution. With regard to upazila [subdistrict] elections, they said polls should be held on the scheduled dates but suggested some rearrangement of the dates for filing of nomination papers, scrutiny, and withdrawals. They said (?filing) of nomination papers should be held on the 20th of next month, while the dates of scrutiny and withdrawal be fixed on 22d and 29th. They supported the upazila parishads [subdistrict councils] and said it will help the village people against absentee representatives. They observed that this was the first time that an elected chairman has to stay in the constituency for a minumum period of 10 months, and thus the grievances of the people will be removed.

The Jana Dal leaders demanded that the new Parliament should be sovereign, having absolute right over approving the national budget, enacting laws, and approving international treaties. It should also have control over the administration of the state through standing committees.

On this point, the president told the party leaders that any change as suggested should be made by the newly elected Parliament. They wanted that the status of the members of Parliament as contemplated under the suspended Constitution be enforced. [Passage indistinct]

The party also demanded [words indistinct] of new zila parishads [district councils] comprising elected members of Parliament of the zila parishads and the chairmen of the upazilas. Appropriate government officials should be made (?executive) members of the zila parishads without voting rights. The party suggested that the zila parishads should have an elected chairman from amongst the members of Parliament by an electorate comprising members of Parliament and upazila chairmen of the district. They also suggested upazila development projects should be approved by the zila parishad which should have the power to supervise, coordinate, and monitor the development activities of the upazila. On these suggestions, President Ershad told the Jana Dal leaders that he will consider them seriously.

The party also demanded that the political convicts should be given the right of appeal to the higher civil courts.

Awami League Head on Dialogue, Expulsion of Soviets

BK301804 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 24 Jan 84 p 1, 3

[By Chapal Bashar]

[Excerpts] Sheikh Hasina, president of the Awami League, the biggest faction in the 15-party alliance, said that without a basis of equality it is not possible for the opposition political parties to hold a dialogue with the government.

We cannot accept a situation in which the government side is allowed to practice politics unrestrained while the political parties are restricted to indoor politics and thereby kept from the public. This was stated by Sheikh Hasina at a special interview with a *SANGBAD* correspondent. She explained the views of the 15-party alliance and the Awami League on participation in the dialogue and other issues.

Sheikh Hasina said that democracy and politics cannot be practiced with conditions. We do not accept conditional political rights. The Awami League has never practiced politics of compromise and it does not believe in it. We will continue our struggle for the 5-point demands with the objective of overcoming the present crisis.

She said the present crisis in the country is due to political instability, the principal cause of which is the capturing of power through abnormal means.

Sheikh Hasina further said that only a people's government formed through a free and fair election can resolve the nation's current political and economic crisis and, thus, we demand the withdrawal of military rule and the holding of elections for a sovereign Parliament.

Question: The government has started political dialogue without the participation of the 15-party and 7-party alliances, which called the dialogue a farce. Under this situation, what course will the 15-party alliance and your party, the Awami League, adopt to proceed with their agitation?

Answer: We are not opposed to talks; we only asked for a suitable setup. The dialogue, which has started without the biggest political party, Awami League, and the 15-party alliance, is meaningless and can only be called a farce. It will neither bring any good to the people and nation nor improve the situation.

Those who are taking part in the dialogue have no relations with the people and the people have no faith in them.

By depriving us of the right to practice open politics, which we acquired through struggle and sacrifice of blood, General Ershad has given a call for holding a dialogue. No dialogue can continue under the present unequal setup. He has arms and power on his side, but we believe that the people are the source of strength. The government's strength rests in arms; ours, in the people. He has called for dialogue while keeping us away from the people and imprisoning us in rooms. Will he come to a dialogue if we invite him to come without his power and arms?

We believe in constitutional movement and do not accept the indoor politics in which we have been tangled. The 15-party alliance will announce its program of action and proceed with the support of the people's strength. We are already in a movement and we will continue it. The Awami League continued its struggle from its birth and never accepted the politics of compromise. We do not believe in it. The Awami League also provided leadership during the freedom struggle.

Question: It was learned from reports published in some newspapers that the Soviet diplomats were expelled for their alleged involvement in the 28 November agitation. The president has also said that there is something to be said against them. The government has sufficient evidence about their activities. What have you to say in this regard?

Answer: It is absolutely clear to the people of the country that the government was responsible for the 28 November incident. If the government has sufficient evidence, why is it not disclosing it to the public?

Question: At your party session, a resolution was adopted on the incident of the expulsion of the Soviet diplomats and it was also alleged that preparations are being made to bring the 7th Fleet to Bangladesh. How do you evaluate the government's whole foreign policy?

Answer: We believe in active nonaligned foreign policy. Our policy is friendship toward all and hatred toward none. The father of the nation, Bangabandhu [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman], ran the administration of the country by following these policies. He established diplomatic relations with even those countries that opposed our independence. The forces that opposed independence captured power by assassinating Bangabandhu and since then the history of liberation war is being fabricated. They printed fabricated history in the textbooks and even said during visits to the United States that America supported the liberation war. Today the country has been put on a different course away from the basic objectives of independence.

The preparations for bring the 7th Fleet to Bangladesh is not an isolated event. The friendly nations that helped and cooperated with us during the liberation war have been humiliated. By raising false charges, the Soviet cultural center has been closed and efforts are being made to provide bases to those nations who opposed us and extended aid to the invading Pakistani forces. We have nothing against the people of America, but it is a fact that the U.S. Government opposed the liberation war and helped Pakistan.

Student Union Activities Banned in Islamabad

BK310345 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Text] The chief martial law administrator has issued Martial Law Regulation No 60. It shall extend to the Islamabad capital territory and comes into force at once. It provides that formation and continuance of unions in all educational institutions shall cease with immediate effect.

The regulation lays down that properties or funds belonging to or held by anyone in the name of any such union shall stand forfeited to the educational institution concerned. Any person or bank holding any funds or accounts with the unions shall inform the head of the educational institution concerned to that effect within 7 days of the commencement of this regulation. The regulation also lays down that no person shall indulge in any prejudicial activity in any manner whatsoever or instigate or induce any student or a group of students to do so or possess or carry within the premises of any educational institution or any other place connected with or related to any educational institution in any manner whatsoever any firearm or weapon of any kind or any ammunition or explosive. It adds that an educational institution may have a council of students which may be set up and function in such manner as may be prescribed by the federal government from time to time.

The head of an educational institution by whatever name called, shall, subject to such limitations and conditions as may be prescribed by the federal government, have the power to expel or rusticate a student or restrict entry of any person to or within the premises of an educational institution or a hostel or any other place connected with or related to any educational institution.

The regulation says any person aggrieved by an order passed against him under this regulation may within 15 days of the communication of the order to him submit a petition to the chief martial law administrator or a person authorized by him in this behalf, and the order of the chief martial law administrator or the person so authorized shall be final. The federal government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this regulation. Contravention of any provision of this regulation shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 5 years or with fine or with both.

27 January Afghan Air Raids Condemned

BK301050 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Excerpts] More leaders of public opinion have strongly condemned the brutal and inhuman nature of bombing the innocent people by the Afghan MiG aircraft, resulting in heavy loss of life and property in the south Waziristan Agency. They described the air raids as most barbarous and against all international norms and rules.

A big students procession in Dera Ismail Khan today condemned the brutal attack. Similar processions of students at Tank yesterday also denounced the unwarranted Afghan air raids into Pakistani territory.

Maldives President Addresses Afghan Refugees

BK301138 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Text] The Maldives president, Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, has expressed full support to the just cause of the Afghan people and called for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. Addressing the refugees during his visit to the Afghan refugee tented village at Nasirbagh near Peshawar today, he said his country stood for the restoration of Islamic, nonaligned status, and independence of Afghanistan. He described the Afghan problem as a vital and important problem facing the Muslim world and said that Maldives firmly supported the just struggle of the Afghan people. He said his country had called for immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan at all international forums, including the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization, as it did not condone foreign intervention in any country. The Maldives president said the people of Afghanistan were fighting for a just cause and they would ultimately succeed in achieving their religious, spiritual, and national objectives. He assured that the people of Maldives would always support their struggle and would do whatever they could for their cause at international forums.

Earlier, an elder of the Afghan refugees explained the circumstances which forced them to leave their hearths and homes in Afghanistan and seek shelter in Pakistan. He thanked the people and Government of Pakistan for providing them shelter and relief on humanitarian grounds.

On departure from Islamabad for Peshawar this morning, the president of the Maldives and Madame Abudul Gayoom were given a warm ceremonial sendoff. The president and Begum Mohammad Ziaul Haq saw them off at the airport.

Political Party Schedules 1 March Meeting

GF301455 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Jan 84 p 6

[Text] Lahore, Jan 24: The Central Committee of the defunct Pakistan Musawaat Party will meet in Lahore on March 1 to discuss the political and the economic situation in the country.

According to reliable sources the decision to convene the first meeting of the party, since the arrival in Pakistan of its president, Mr Mohammad Hanif Ramay, was taken after consultations with committee members at Karachi, Quetta and other parts of the country. The Central Committee is likely to discuss what stand to take on such issues as provincial autonomy, the system under which future elections should take place.

Jayewardene Pledges To Hold Elections When Due

BK271120 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Jan 84

[Excerpt] President Jayewardene has said that when the government completes its current term of office, a general election will be held. He has no intention of extending the term of government through a referendum. The president expressed these views yesterday at a ceremony held in connection with the golden jubilee of the [name indistinct] in Kallutera.

Mr Jayewardene said that although some felt that the party system is not necessary in this country, he will never concede to such a view. He recalled that when he was the opposition leader, he had always extended support to the government in power. He said the opposition is a must in a democracy.

Mr Jayewardene said that terrorists were very active in India and several African states. The situation in this country is not that grave. The reason for this is the influence of Buddhism in this country.

He said that the English and Tamil languages will soon be introduced at (Tiruvelas). Once the Mahasangha [Buddhist monks] has a knowledge of Tamil, the Tamil people will soon have an understanding of Buddhism.

President on Steps To Solve Terrorism Problem

BK301123 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene has said that he is not prepared to become either like King (Salisangavo) or like Hitler or Idi Amin in finding a solution to the problem of terrorism. He stated this when he addressed a gathering at the (Vastagama) esplanade in connection with the 4th anniversary celebrations of the distribution of free schoolbooks.

Mr Jayewardene said that without the support of people it will not be possible to solve the problem of terrorism. The reason for this is that the terrorist movement is a clandestine one. He stated that problems could be solved through discussions and in an amicable fashion. We should treat members of the minority community as human beings, said Mr Jayewardene, adding that he had always condemned racial and religious differences.

He requested the mahasangha [Buddhist organization] to provide the people in the north and in the east with an understanding of the problem in order to control terrorism. We should act with kindness and compassion in solving this problem. He recalled how the Lord Buddha was able to reform a murderer, such as (Angoliman).

Tamil Chief Says TULF To Cooperate in Talks

BK290917 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 84

[Text] The Tamil United Liberation Front secretary, Mr Amirthalingam, has said his party will extend its fullest cooperation in finding a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. Talking to newsmen in Madras yesterday, he said he was trying to arrive at a consensus on the issue.

Mr Amirthalingam returned to Madras after participating in the roundtable conference in Colombo convened by the Sri Lanka president, Mr Jayewardene.

Buddhist Clergy Decide To Continue Talks

BK300735 Hong Kong AFP in English 0720 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Colombo, Jan 30 (AFP) — The Buddhist clergy have decided to continue participating in the national roundtable conference seeking solutions to the country's ethnic problems, informed sources said today.

However an observer said that the group's renewed participation may prevent any consensus from being reached at the multi-party sessions.

The powerful clergy group decided at a meeting last night to attend the meetings of two committees that will examine the grievances of all communities and the causes of ethnic violence, which resulted last July in the deaths of nearly 400 people, mostly minority Tamils.

The decision came in the wake of government lobbying for the group's participation, sources close to the monks told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

A source said that the government has assured the monks that they would play a leading role in the conference.

"The monks seem to believe they have got a mandate from the government to solve all the racial issues. It seems that they now want to tell the government and the TULF (a Tamil party) how to solve all the problems without establishing regional councils," the source said.

However one observer said that "if the monks have been left with the impression that they will be the de facto government and cabinet then it will be difficult for any consensus to be reached at the conference."

SLFP Breakaway Group To Form New Party

BK281432 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 21 Jan 84 p 11

[Text] Mr. Vijaya Kumaranatunga said on Friday at Watarappola, Mt. Lavinia that the Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshaya which will be inaugurated on January 22, will be a "people's party" reflecting the aspirations of the common masses. He was speaking at a rally held to explain the present plight of the SLFP at a meeting presided over by the SLFP's Watarappola organiser Ananda Fernando.

He added that the SLFP today was a capitalist-oriented reactionary party with highly dictatorial tendencies and what mattered to it was not principles or discipline but individuals. "The present SLFP is ambitious and power-hungry and lacks the

sympathetic concern for the uplift of the common man for which its founder laid down his life," Mr Kumaranatunga stressed.

He charged that the party's constitution had been manipulated to deny the members of their democratic rights and concentrate all power in the president of the party to make her a dictator. He also added that the only noticeable difference between the UNP and the SLFP was the party colour. "One was green and the other blue" he quipped. He charged that both parties were dedicated to uphold the capitalist structure; both lacked a clear-cut program and that one was not any more socialist or any less reactionary than the other.

Mr. Kumaranatunga analysing the shortcomings and drawbacks of the SLFP said that it lacked the strength to launch a struggle for the emancipation of the masses. Therefore, it would be the sole responsibility of the new Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshya to organise all progressive, anti-UNP, anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist forces to overthrow the present capitalist regime and establish a truly socialist government in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Deva Bandara Senaratna, and Mr. Ananda Fernando also spoke.

Bandarnaike Comments on Breakaway Groups

BK281437 Colombo THE SUN in English 19 Jan 84 p 3

[By J.T. De Silva and R.M. Tilakaratne]

[Text] Addressing a delegation from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party Trade Union Federation yesterday (18th) at Party headquarters, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike in her capacity as the leader of the party said that there had been breakaway groups from the Sri Lanka Freedom Party since 1956. Even at the very start a few factions broke away. Some have rejoined the party.

Breakaway groups cannot destroy the party as it had been founded on a strong footing and as there was a large number of communities following its ideals. "Certain political parties have taken control of the trade unions, Mrs Bandaranaike continued, but during our time we have granted a certain amount of freedom to trade unions.

"We do not deny the fact that we have made mistakes but we have to correct ourselves.

"The general meeting of the Sri Lanka National Transport Workers' Union was scheduled to be held today but it had to be abandoned on a court order.

"In deference to the court order we will not be holding the meeting as scheduled."

Speaking further, Mrs. Bandaranaike said that her party would devise a scheme in the near future, whereby the correct source of information would be placed before the public, as a certain newspaper has today published a misleading news item regarding the meeting scheduled for today.

A breakaway group has made arrangements to form a new political party but people are not prepared to accept them as they are formed.

"We are ready to face any eventuality or force and continue to follow Bandaranaike policies."

Montazeri Speaks to Revolution Guards 29 January

GF300710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Text] According to our correspondent, commanders of the Revolution Guards Corps in Sector 1, along with Mr Irani and Mr Nabavi, supervisors of Sector 1 and Qom, yesterday met and talked with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

In this meeting, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri praised their work: Our brothers are aware that, as the imam of the nation has repeatedly said, our real problem today is the war. Therefore, all our efforts and energy should be focused on the war. We should try to maintain and preserve the same revolutionary and sincere attitudes which have existed in the corps from the very first day. We should not worry who reaps the glory for work or for victory at the fronts or what individual or group has received citations.

We should work to serve God. Victory may be attributed to the army, the Corps, or the mobilized personnel but this is not important. What is important is dedicated work and seeking rewards from God. Therefore, it is expected that officers on the war fronts make use of experienced and capable soldiers who have learned much at the war fronts and have better judgment. If there is any grievence, it should be ignored in these critical times and the capabilities and usefulness of such people should be used and employed in the war.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri urged the army to preserve its revolutionary spirit and stressed that one of the important duties of Corps officers is that they should preserve the revolutionary spirit in the various works of the Corps. They should try in this organ, which is a creation of the revolution, not to get involved in crippling protocol and red tape which is rife in many organizations and offices. However, this should not mean compromising discipline and regulations— the regulations should be revolutionary and should not create headaches and cause loss of time.

Ayatollah Montazeri urged officers of the Islamic Revolution guards to pay more attention to relations between revolution guards and the public and accused personsd: Our dear brothers in the Corps should pay attention to the fact that if their treatment of the public is harsh and not Islamic, all they might do will be blamed on Islam and the revolution. The accused that are being arrested by the guards should not be arrested by the guards on their own initiative but only under orders from a court. The Revolution Guards Corps has no authority to insult the accused, their families, or their dependents. The accused should be handed over to the court with due respect and in cases where an order has been issued regarding the accused by a court, only that order should be carried out and nothing more.

In connection with noninterference in private homes, Ayatollah Montazeri said: I have repeatedly said that revolution guards and all other executive officials should not just on mere suspicion of a plot against the revolution engage in any anti-shari'a acts by entering private homes or arresting private individuals just out of curiousity. The Koran says: Do not be suspicious or curious. This applies to similar situations. It is acknowledged that some people might be engaged in anti-shari'a activities in their homes but Islam does not allow officials to swarm over that home and drag the owner out for questioning. We may only detain people engaged in illegal demonstrations in the streets.

Guards Official: Maneuvers Set for 8-11 February

GF310854 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Shamkhani, deputy commander in chief of the Isalmic revolution guards forces, held a radio and press conference in which he talked about the Jerusalem liberation maneuvers. He said: These maneuvers will take place in preparation for the liberation of Jerusalem from the grip of Zionist occupation. The forces which will take part in these maneuvers will ascertain, through these maneuvers, their full readiness to confront international arrogance and the enemies of Islam.

On repercussions on the international level, Brother Shamkhani said: The popular forces in Islamic Iran — through their expanded execution of the Jerusalem liberation maneuvers — will demonstrate the power that lies in Islam and in Muslims. We hope that this maneuver will constitute a supreme example of confronting the enemies of Islam and will be admired by the Muslims and the oppressed in the world. He went on to say that the organized popular forces — which will be represented in their independent brigades and divisions — will on 8-11 February execute the Jerusalem liberation maneuvers in all Iranian cities as the Muslim Iranian people celebrate the anniversary of the glorious Islamic Revolution.

Brother Shamkhani expressed the hope that this maneuver will constitute an important step in the direction of forming an army of 20 million soldiers.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,620

LD301725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,620 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Exchanges of fire continued yesterday in the northwest operational zones of the country. As a result of our forces fire on enemy positions and fortifications, 20 Saddamists were killed and one of their vehicles and a number of their foxholes and trenches were destroyed. The movement and activities of a number of enemy infantry units were observed in the region opposite Piranshah, and their activities were stopped by our fire.

In the western operational zones, exchanges of heavy weapons fire continued, being more intense in Meymeh. In this region,our heavy artillery fire stopped all activities of enemy infantry and engineering units.

Exchanges of fire also continued in the southern operational zones; fire intensity was greatest in (Zeyd), Shalamcheh, and Kushk. In the region opposite Kushk, our fighting forces fire stopped the activities of enemy reconnaisance groups and

inflicted losses upon them. As a result our forces fire on enemy concentrations west of the Arvand Rud, seven enemy foxholes, trenches, and observation posts were destroyed.

Yesterday, as a result of enemy long-range weapons fire,two houses in Abadan were damaged. [Unsigned]

Materials on Iraqi Release of Captives

Intentions Questioned

GF301810 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jan

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The ruling regime in Baghdad announced its intention to hand 190 Iranian POW's over to their home via the Turkish authorities.

Those who are well aware of the Iraqi situation analyzed this news as an important indication of the deteriorating situation of the terrorist exercises conducted by this fascist regime. This is taking place after the great echo of the vast execution campaigns which covered all classes of the Iraqi people, including students, officials, and members of the Armed Forces. The reports of executions reached the international organizations and the human rights institutions at a time when this barbaric regime is preparing to quench its thirst with the blood of the innocent citizens, using gigantic rockets against the crowded cities as the best thing it can manage to do in this war, and at a time when the Islamic Republic is preparing to receive hundreds of Islamic and international figures for the Val-Fajr festivities, who will acquaint themselves with the signs of the crime and cruelty of the Iraqi rulers in the border cities.

The Iraqi regime chose this particular time to release some of the POW's in order to remove some of the stains from its criminal face and to paint it with artificial colors so that it can attain an honorable position. But there is no way for these colors to cover all the stains; not even all the seas of the world can remove the signs of the crime which has been mixed into every cell of the dirty bodies of the Iraqi rulers, because whoever insists on committing crimes will never abandon this at anytime.

We bless good deeds when they originate from good intentions, but when secret intentions lie behind good deeds and when good will is an introduction to barbaric actions, there will be no gratitude under any circumstances. This regime began this war on one dark night and invaded the villages at the border to arrest anybody who came along — as if it were Iraqi soil. Half of the Iranian POW's who are in the hands of this regime are civilians who have nothing to do with this war [words indistinct]. Will the international laws and human norms allow the arrest of civilian [word indistinct] among the POW's and their confinement in cells for all this time? What will these laws have to say about this horrible act? We extend this question to those who have live consciences. The important fact is that the Islamic Republic adopted this humanitarian initiative l year a[illegible] and released over 60 Iraqi POW's who were wounded — even though Iran had not begun the war and even though those POW's were captured on Iranian territory and not in Iraq. The Ba'thist response to this is to release over-80-year-old men who were exposed to the cameras of the journalists from all parts of the world. The question which astonished these journalists is: How can these old men be POW's even though they cannot carry weapons and how did the Iraqi rulers allow themselves to ignore all the international norms to capture these old men and to put them in the POW camps without considering their age and their ability to fight?

The new deal will not differ from the previous ones. Nothing has happened in the entity of the regime to bring about a change in its practices. It is [word indistinct]. It is the regime which [word indistinct] in crime. This regime has no mercy for infants or old people. The Iraqi prisons are still brimful of women and men of the free mujahidin. The blood of the innocent people is still fresh in [word indistinct] and Sulayman Mosque. The blood is still fresh due to a recent missile attack against one of the intermediate schools in (?Behbehan), which led to the deaths of more than 70 students, the eldest of whom was no more than 12 years old. Any observer who would like to describe this action which the Iraqi rulers revealed should first review the criminal record of these rulers, which surpasses with its rotten smell all famous criminal records which are stained with blood and hatred. After that the observer can ask questions. Is it possible for the fierce monster to change into a peaceful lamb? Will these black marks be erased overnight? This question will astonish people who have live consciences everywhere.

Mistreatment Reported

GF301631 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — A thirteen year old Iranian school boy, who is among 190 freed captives released by the Iraqi regime, said that he and his parents had been kidnapped from a taxi on Mahshahr-Abadan Road and taken to a camp in Iraq.

'Ali Baharestani who has spent 39 months in the Iraqi camp of (Tanumeh), said that after the Iraqi attack on his hometown, Abadan, they decided to move their belongings from Abadan in the process of which they were captured by the Iraqi forces.

As for the treatment of the Iraqis towards the Iranian captives, he said they had been beaten and asked to make insulting statements concerning their beliefs. However, he said, all the time the Iraqis faced the resistance of the Iranians.

Baharestani who is among the group of Iranian civilians released by the Iraqi regime, arrived here via Ankara, Sunday night. Furthermore, he added that the strong faith of the captives has astonished the Iraqis.

Another of the released, Qalandar Cangizkani, 59, also from Abadan, told IRNA that he, too, was dragged out of a car along with a number of women and children on Abadan-Ahvaz Road some 40 months ago.

He described attitude of the Iraqi agents as savage, adding that he was taken captive and beaten for no reason.

He further told IRNA that the Iraqi forces had looted all his belongings and even cut off his finger to get his ring. Cangizkani who is a worker at the Abadan oil company described morale of the captive Iranian forces as high. Although these combatants were beaten and treated badly however, despite the most intolerable conditions, they remained faithful to Islam and the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Speaking further on the treatment of the Iraqis towards the Iranian captives, Cangizkani said that they were subjected to severe physical and psychological pressures and at times the food of a single person was divided among ten people. However, he stressed, they always failed to weaken the will of the Iranians.

When asked what was the message of the Iranian captive combatants, Changizkhani said that they always prayed for the health of the imam and sent their tributes to him. Furthermore, they are looking forward for the final victory of the Iranian forces in the three-year-old Iraqi imposed war and want them to fight the enemy till victory.

'Alireza Davarian, 32, a member of the Basij force of Abadan, who has a hand amputated by the Iraqis, said that the captive combatants enjoyed a high morale and added that the Iraqis even prevented them from carrying out their religious duties.

The Basij member also said that the message of the captive combatants to their fellow-warriors on the battle-fronts was to continue the war until final victory. They also prayed for the health of Imam Khomeyni.

A 30 year-old man, 'Abbas Barin who was in captivity for three years and was suffering from severe leg injury, said that he and two IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] members, and a navy commando had been taken by the Iraqi forces. The Iraqi forces martyred the guards and the commando just because they had long beards. Even in the last moments of their lives, these martyrs were chanting Long Live Islam, and tributes to Imam Khomeyni.

Barin said that while in captivity, the Iraqis were trying to disappoint them about their belief and mar Islam, however, the spirit of the Iranians was extraordinarily strong.

Another of former captives, Gholamali Akhundi, 53, said that he had also been kidnapped on Abadan-Mahshahr Road. He said that the Iraqis treated them barbarically and had whipped and tortured them.

A Red Crescent relief worker, Ms Fatemeh Nahidi, one of the four female relief workers released, said that she was kidnapped along with four others in the port city of Khorramshahr, while on duty. She said that she was captured while trying to transfer a group of wounded behind the war fronts.

For a period of 19 months I was kept in a security prison under the list of missing during which no one knew of my whereabouts. She said she had gone on a 19-day hunger strike after which the Iraqis decided to transfer her to a camp.

As for measures by the International Red Cross officials against the inhuman treatment of the Iranian captives, she said that although the officials tried to improve welfare of the captives, in most cases they were rejected by the Iraqis.

She added that beating and insulting of the female captives, were common violations of international regulations on POW's, in prisons of Iraq.

As for the propaganda efforts of the Iraqi officials among the captives, Nahidi said that all these attempts led to failure. She too said that the captives were prevented from fulfilling their religious duties. Such attempts, as possessing the Holy Quran and other religious books, were met with harsh reaction of the Iraqis.

Describing her conditions while in prison, she said during the 19 months in jail she was not even given a piece of clothing. However, after being transferred to the camp and under the pressure of the Red Cross officials, the situation improved slightly. Furthermore, she added several months before their release the situation changed drastically and the Iraqis in (?many) ways attempted to gain their satisfaction, Nahidi added.

Nahidi further added that the Iraqi officials in the camps had launched a massive campaign to tarnish the universal personality of Imam Khomeyni and devotion of the ulema and persuade the captive combatants that the Iranian Government was incompetent. However, she stressed the Iraqis failed to reach their objectives.

Another woman, Masumeh Abadi, said that beating of the captives was a common practice in the camps. However, she said throughout the captivity they were defending Islam.

Halimeh Azmudeh, 27, from Abadan told IRNA that the Iraqis were trying to convince the foreign reporters that the captives were saboteurs. She added that once when these reporters visited the camp, the captives told them that if they wanted the truth they should talk with the captives and not with the camp officials. After this incident, she said, the little window of their cell was sealed.

Azmudeh continued that as a result of this the air inside the cell was suffocating. When they complained to the Red Cross officials about this, they were told that since the Iraqi regime considered these captives as political prisoners, therefore, not much could be done.

She said that the Red Cross officials gave in to the claims of the Iraqis who considered the shouting of Allah-Akbar (God is the Greatest) and asking their cell to be provided with an air circulating system, as political actions.

Nahidi also complained about the shortcomings of the international organisations vis-a-vis the Iranian captives in the Iraqi camps. She said that if these organisations did really care for human rights, they should go and inspect living conditions in the Iraqi POW camps of the captive Iranians who are categorised as missing and inform their families of their conditions.

According to an IRNA report from Ankara, reporters were denied entrance to the Ankara Airport since they would be informed of the kidnapping of Iranian civilians and would, therefore disclose it to the world.

The IRNA report added that while Iraqi officials in Ankara vainly attempted to pretend they had been concerned about the POW's, all along, 'Abbas Barin, who had spent over two years in detention of Iraqi forces and is suffering heart disease, told IRNA, if Iraqi officials and the International Red Cross paid the same attention towards us when we were in Iraqi jails, we would not have faced the present deplorable situation.

Surprise and sorrow could be seen in the faces of those present at Ankara Airport, who were expecting a group of military POW's but instead saw mostly aged and young civilian people. The Iranian captives, wearing ragged uniforms of the Iraqi forces or striped clothes for prisoners, were cursing Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn for crimes he has committed during the imposed war.

Reza Golestani, a 25-year-old Iranian captive who was injured, told IRNA in Ankara that one of the reasons for the release of the Iranians was that Iraqi hospitals did not have enough room for the injured. He added that the Iraqi regime was no longer able to control Iranian POW's and civilian camps and could no longer suppress their will and right for observing (according to the Geneva convention) religious rituals. This Iranian civilian captive stressed that he had been walking on Ahvaz-Khorramshahr Road when he was taken captive by the Iraqi forces.

Meanwhile, Iran's Foreign Ministry representative who had arrived in Ankara at the head of a delegation to receive Iranian civilians and military POW's from the IRC [Islamic Revolution Committee], expressed appreciation for efforts of the Turkish Government.

However, analysts believe that this Iraqi gesture of releasing a group of civilian and disabled Iranian POW's, is aimed at neutralising effects of last year's humanitarian measure of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the unilateral release of Iraqi disabled POW's.

It should be noted that this is not the first time Saddam Husayn has resorted to such measures in order to attract the attention of international circles and thus conceal his regime's crimes. In early 1982 when the Islamic Republic unilaterally handed over 32 Iraqi POW's to the representatives of the IRC, Saddam, unexpectedly and without prior announcement, handed over 32 aged Iranian men and women, who had been kidnapped from border areas, to the IRC representatives as military Iranian POW's.

'Elderly, Civilians' Arrive

LD311103 Tehran IRNA in English 0906 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30 IRNA — Last night a group of 190 mainly elderly and totally exhausted civilian Iranians arrived here many on stretchers and wheelchairs after going through an ordeal of about 900 days in prisons of Iraq. They had been practically abducted and carried away from their home towns and cities along the Iran-Iraq border shortly after the Iraqi troops invaded Iran in September 1980.

The group which comprises solely civilians mainly between the ages of 50 and 70 and older was earlier described by the Baghdad Government as "a group of under-age children" who as Baghdad put it "were freed for humanitarian reasons."

The Baghdad Government, however, might as well have claimed to have treated tham as criminals of war for the same "humanitarian" reasons. Traces of torture, mal-nutrition, physical abuses, and psychological pressure upon them all attest to the falsehood of such an unfounded claim which was disapproved [as received] to reporters and observers in Ankara and later in Tehran.

Amputated limbs, psychological and mental disorder, gastric ailments, hyper-tension, cardio-vascular disorders, respiratory ailments, duodenal ulcer caused by mental stress and blindness are some of the objective traces which reveal their agonizing plight in the hands of their captors in Iraq. In Ankara, however, observers were shocked by presence in the group of four young girls earlier engaged in relief services behind battlefronts this side of the border. There are 11 youngsters in the group who are under the age of 18, though there is at least one 81-year-old civilian identified as Mohammad Mashhadi Esma'il who comes from the Iranian city of Kerman.

Observers believe that Baghdad has freed the group in an ostentatious show of philanthropy and of adherence to humanitarian principles and also as a move aimed at neutralising the rapidly spreading news of its deployment of chemical weapons over civilian quarters in Iran.

Asked whether the Iranian Government, would reciprocate the move, a government official noted here today that the Islamic Republic cannot possibly reciprocate the act since "we never invaded Iraq and we never took captive a single Iraqi civilian. We have no Iraqi civilians among the Iraqi POWs here to free."

He said also that Iran would never hesitate to free convalescing Iraqi prisoners of war after their full recovery. He said, however, that the International Red Cross is reasonably expected to exert pressure upon the Baghdad Government to free the many more Iranian civilians who are wrongly treated as prisoners of war in Iraq which is an infringement of the Geneva Convention.

Agreement Signed on Sale of Crude to GDR

LD281405 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 84

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and the GDR have signed an agreement on the sale of 1.5 million metric tonnes of crude oil this year. According to our correspondent, the agreement was signed by officials of the two countries at the Oil Ministry in

Tehran last Thursday, on the eve of the arrival in Tehran of an industrial and trade delegation from the GDR. On the basis of this agreement, Iran will export to the GDR in 1984 30,000 barrels of oil a day, 1.5 million metric tonnes in total, at the official price. Our correspondent now reports on the economic talks between the two countries:

A 14-man delegation, comprising industrial and commercial officials of the GDR, has come to Tehran to hold talks with Iranian authorities on the expansion of relations between the two countries. Talks with Iranian officials began at the Azadi Hotel in Tehran. The GDR delegation is led by Deputy Trade Minister Klaus Gaedt.

During its 1-week visit to Tehran, the GDR delegation will hold talks with our country's officials in the Commerce, Industry, and Oil Ministries and also with banking officials. In the first round of talks between Iran and the GDR, the Iranian delegation was led by Mojtaba Khosrow-Taj, under secretary to the Commerce Ministry. During these talks, the head of the German delegation referred to the signing of the new agreement to purchase 1.5 million metric tonnes of crude oil from Iran in 1984. He said his country is prepared to expand cooperation with Iran in various fields, including the construction of units for manufacturing of machine tools, textile machinery, manufacturing china in Iran, delivery of farm and food-processing machinery, and cooperation in the chemical fields.

During the same meeting, the under secretary to the Commerce Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, referring to the main areas of economic relations between the GDR and Iran in light and heavy industries and commercial relations, said: On the basis of a memorandum of understanding dated 1 February 1983, economic and commercial relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the GDR revolve around four basic axes, which will be reviewed during this delegation's visit to Tehran. In the field of heavy industries, issues related to the cement industry, repair and manufacturing of machine tools, hydraulic press, casting and smithy equipment, motor equipment, and shipbuilding industries will be investigated.

He went on: In the field of light industries, issues related to textile industries, chemical industries, food technology, electronics, and paper-making industries will be studied. In the commercial field, the volume of trade between the two countries reached a total of about $350 million, about $200 million of which was oil exports from Iran and $150 million was for the import of various goods from East Germany. He added: Iran's imports from Germany totalled about $90 million in the past 9 months. It appears that further possibilities exist on both sides in this connection which should be investigated.

Talks between the GDR delegation and economic officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will continue until this Thursday. During the same period, the GDR delegation will hold separate talks with officials of various ministries of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Foreign Ministry Official Departs for Venezuela

LD302349 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] The under secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of economic and international affairs left for Caracas this afternoon at the head of a delegation in order to take part in the inauguration ceremony of the Venezuelan president. He is carrying a written message from President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to the Venezuelan president. He will also have discussions with Venezuelan officials about relations between the two countries.

Majlis Approves Election Bill Articles

LD301423 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Text] In its open meeting this morning chaired by Deputy Speaker Musavi Khoin'i, the Majlis continued its debate on the Majlis election bill, approving another three [as heard] articles.

Article 32, which has been approved, says: The following individuals are banned from becoming candidates to the Majlis: Secretaries of the banned Rastakhiz Party [only political party active under the shah's regime], its directors and their deputies as well as the party's clerks in (?towns); individuals holding posts in village councils and equity houses [for resolving local, minor disputes]; members of chambers of commerce and guilds, guilds unions, and arbitration councils; managing directors of the former regime's cooperatives and those active in strengthening the rank and file of the former regime; prime ministers, Cabinet ministers, and governors general and their deputies and advisers; directors general and heads of government organizations, governors, district officers, mayors, ambassadors, senior counsuls, military attaches, first and second secretaries of embassies, members of the dissolved Majlis and the senate; members of SAVAK; chieftains and village leaders; [word indistinct] members of city, town, and provincial councils under the former regime; those affiliated with the former regime; and those who on the basis of available evidence liaised with SAVAK.

Also included are big landlords registering wastelands in their own names and individuals whose entire or part of their properties were confiscated by a court ruling; officials of organizations and political parties and groups whose illegality has already been announced by competent authorities; those convicted for having acted against the Islamic Republic of Iran; those convicted for liaising [as heard], according to competent judicial authorities; those known for corruption as well as individuals committing adultery; those who have been convicted and received religious punishment; those addicted to drugs; insane and [word indistinct] bankrupt individuals, and individuals covered by Article 49 of the Constitution, according to court ruling.

Article 34 says: The terms applying to elected persons, as stipulated in Articles 30 and 32, will also apply to [word indistinct].

The report adds that a number of pupils from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps high school were present at today's Majlis meeting. They were welcomed by Khoin'i.

Majlis Issues Message on Revolution Anniversary

GF301659 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — In a message issued here today, 177 deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) congratulated all world oppressed on the 5th anniversary of the victorious homecoming of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a part of their message the Majlis deputies said that the imam successfully returned to the country after 15 years in exile, and dealt the final blow on the mammon of the time (defunct shah) opening a new era in the country's history. By his spiritual leadership, added the message, Imam Khomeyni conducted the Islamic Revolution to its culmination.

Mahdavi-Kani Confers With Khomeyni

LD301128 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30 IRNA — Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, the secretary general of the society of combatant ulema of Tehran, met and conferred with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Monday.